

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 23 and 25 through 34 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice.

The specification has been amended to include the headings required by MPEP 608.01(a). Further, the abstract of the disclosure has been amended to conform to MPEP 608.01(b), as well as to remove reference numbers.

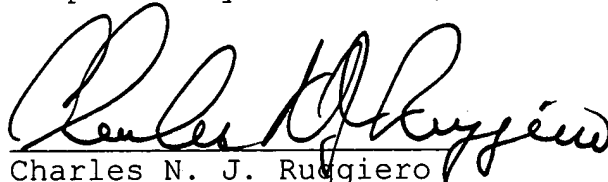
The claims of the present application have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. Specifically, claims 1 through 23 and 25 through 34 have been amended to remove reference numerals, to include the transitional phrase "comprising", and to remove multiple dependencies, to provide proper method claim verb tense, and to correct translation errors. Thus, these claim amendments should not affect the scope of equivalents to which these claims are entitled.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

October 15, 2004



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